

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, December 28, 2015 with Commissioners Bruce Levi, Paul Wilkinson, Mary Ann Beard Auditor and Attorney Leigh Morning in attendance. Commissioner Mark Bacon was absent.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the December 14th regular meeting were approved on a motion by Paul Wilkinson. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the minutes of the Executive Session of December 21st.

Commissioner Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, December 22nd were approved. Paul Wilkinson made the motion. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Claims were submitted by Auditor Mary Ann Beard. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the claim docket. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Wilkinson moved to approve the payroll. Bruce Levi offered the second. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

Paul Wilkinson moved to retain Gilliam Janitorial Service for 2016 to provide cleaning service for the courthouse. Mr. Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Marge Amos presented the board of health recommendation of Dr. Russell Daugherty for a three year term on the board. Paul Wilkinson moved to appoint Dr. Daugherty. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

QPH

The auditor presented six quotes for repairs to the heating system of the courthouse totaling \$8,462. The repairs were approved not to exceed the quoted amount on a motion by Commissioner Wilkinson. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE ROOF REPAIRS

Wellman Brothers roofing company submitted three quotes for necessary repairs that were found during a recent inspection. Paul Wilkinson moved to allow the repairs totaling \$41,000. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ECDC

A letter of support for the Shovel Ready Prime Site at North Industrial Park was signed by Bruce Levi on a motion by Paul Wilkinson.

APC

Interim director Marvin Rees reported that two items from the APC have not been located since the resignation of the previous APC director. A laptop computer purchased in April 2015 and a measuring wheel are missing at this time. The Commissioners asked that the Sheriff look into their options.

Mayor Mike Pavey stated that the joint governing APC committee recommends Bryant Niehoff for the position of APC Director. Niehoff was selected from nine applicants and will begin on January 11th. The Commissioners requested a copy of the benefits package. The committee is also in the process of interviewing for the position of Administrative Assistant.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Nick White representing the fire chiefs association stated that the original plan was to apply for a grant to assist in funding an 800mhz radio system. Upon further investigation it was determined that a digital communication system was more advantageous for Rush County. The new proposal would require county funding of \$433,000 over several years. The Sheriff agreed that this would be the best system for all first responders to communicate. Commissioner Wilkinson agreed to attend the first meeting of the Fire Chiefs on January 12th at 10:00a.m. in the EMA office.

EMA

EMA director Chuck Kemker reported on an EF1 tornado touchdown in Williamstown with winds sustaining 85 mph. The storm damaged 9 houses, 16 outbuildings, but no reported injuries. Straight line winds in Sexton produced property damage to a vehicle. Information if that damage came from county owned property is to be determined. More information is needed in order to file the complaint with the insurance company.

APC/BZA APPOINTMENTS

Six applicants were interviewed for the appointments to the APC and BZA boards. The first recommendation was initiated by Paul Wilkinson when he made the motion to appoint Joseph (Craig) Trent for the one year appointment to the APC and the BZA due to the resignation of Mike Holzback. Bruce Levi seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Commissioner Bruce Levi then moved to appoint Tom Monka to the four year APC appointment. Paul Wilkinson seconded that motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Levi stated that the appointees must keep an open mind and remember what is best for all of Rush County.

The first BZA meeting is January 13th. It was noted that Craig Trent has a conflict since his complaint on MET towers is on the agenda for that meeting. The auditor was instructed on a motion by Bruce Levi to contact rejected candidate Jeff Morgan and ask if he would accept a temporary appointment for that meeting. Paul Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jim Cowan reported that there are currently 39 inmates housed in the county jail; 31 male and 8 female. There were 14 gun permits issued, 778 calls to dispatch, 1 burglary, 2 sex offense cases and 3 fraud cases reported this week. There was an arrest in Florida of the suspected debit fraud cases in Rush County and 1 fatal car accident was reported. Auditor Beard shared that there will be a windfall of State 911 funds the amount to be determined at a later date.

SHERIFF FUEL BID

A fuel bid was received from Mike Osborne of Harvest Land Co-op this week. The Commissioners have the option of a fixed price of \$1.92 a gallon or a variable cost that includes an escalating clause. Paul Wilkinson move to sign for the fixed rate and Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IT

IT administrator Randy Herbert presented the contract with Net Noggin. Gary King of Net Noggin provided items that will be covered through the maintenance agreement. Paul Wilkinson moved to sign the contract for \$11,562. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LEGAL ITEMS

Attorney Leigh Morning shared that the State contract for the inmate Medicaid program has been received. Commissioner Wilkinson moved to sign the contract and Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried. The auditor will return the contract to the proper authorities.

HIGHWAY

Jerry Sitton reported that United Consulting Engineers will be delivering the Bridge Inspection books. Bridge 20 on county road 1000 N between 200 and 300 W is in need of repairs. Sitton is waiting to hear from an engineering firm.

AUDITOR

Auditor Mary Ann Beard stated that form 1782 which is the budget order from the Department of Local Government Finance was received on December 23rd. The order called for additional reductions in the General Fund and the Cumulative Capital Fund. The county has 10 business days to respond. Beard has contacted the State with oversights on their part which should alleviate the problems.

SOLID WASTE

Director Carole Yeend reminded the public that January 1st is the first Tox-Away day of the year.

A fifteen minute recess was call by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Bruce Levi.
Commissioner Levi re-convened the meeting.

APC SECRETARY

Bruce Levi stated that he will ask the current secretary Linda Ashwill to remain in the office until January 11th. Surveyor Marvin Rees went on the record to recommend that Linda be hired in the permanent position as APC administrative assistant. Levi told Rees to share that information with those on the APC Governing Board.

JAIL CONTRUCTION

Attorney Leigh Morning explained the process required to purchase the Pavey building. A formal offer will be presented based on the two appraisals attained by the county. The owner will have the right to accept or reject. A complaint for eminent domain could then be filed. Morning state that the process would take at least 3 months and the cost of legal fees from \$2,000-\$5,000 would be paid from the bond. Paul Wilkinson moved to ask the attorney to proceed with acquiring the Pavey building. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Levi called for a meeting with the construction manager.

Motion to adjourn was offered by Paul Wilkinson and seconded by Bruce Levi.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Paul Wilkinson
Paul Wilkinson

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor